

R E M A R K S

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of a Request for Continuing Examination.

In the final Office Action Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the British patent document to Muetschele.

Claims 9-12, 15 and 23-25 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the U.S. patent to Frauhammer.

Claims 13-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over the U.S. patent to Frauhammer.

At the same time, Claim 22 was considered as allowable.

Also, the claims were rejected under 35 USC 112 for formal reasons.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of the claims for formal reasons, the claims have been amended in compliance with the Examiner's comments. It is believed that the grounds for the formal rejection are therefore eliminated.

After carefully considering the Examiner's grounds for rejection of the claims over the art, applicants cancelled Claims 10 and 22 and introduced their features into Claim 9, the broadest claim on file. The thusly amended Claim 9 includes the new features of the present invention which were defined in Claim 22 and considered as allowable by the Examiner.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 9 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

Claims 11, 15 and 16 have been amended to depend on Claim 9.

These claims, together with Claims 12-14, 17, 19-21 and 23-25, depend directly or indirectly on Claim 9, they share its allowable features, and they should be considered as being in allowable condition as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should

the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,


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